

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159052
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 PM-04 INR-07 /029 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DEREUTHER:SLH
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-----118774 090449Z /10
R 082003Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FROM REUTHER TO THEROS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP

SUBJECT: MARS VIKING LANDER

REF: (A) STATE 149906, (B) DAMASCUS 3819

1. THIS BACK CHANNEL CONFIRMS WIMMEL-HALL TELCON OF
7 JULY 1977.

2. DOD WILL DENY USIA REQUEST FOR MAC TRANSPORTATION ON
GROUNDS, INTER ALIA, THAT REGULATIONS DO NOT ALLOW COM-
PETITION WITH COMMERCIAL CARRIERS.

3. VIKING LANDER TOO LARGE TO GO BELLY CARGO, AND REQUIRES
ALL-CARGO AIRCRAFT. COMMERCIAL CARRIERS DISCOUNTED BECAUSE
INITIAL SURVEY INDICATED THAT NO ALL-CARGO AIRCRAFT FLY
INTO DAMASCUS REGULARLY. USIA HOWEVER HAS DETERMINED THAT
CARGO DOORS OF BOEING 747SP LARGE ENOUGH TO HANDLE LANDER.

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SINCE SYRIAN AIR AND QUANTAS USE 747SP INTO DAMASCUS,
LANDER WILL GO TEL AVIV-LONDON OR PARIS-DAMASCUS. USIA
WILL FUND.

4. AS LAST RESORT, THERE IS A FULL-SCALE, WOODEN REPLICA
OF VIKING LANDER IN US, WHICH USIA HAS ALREADY PROGRAMMED
INTO CAIRO AND SUDAN IN SEPTEMBER 1977 AND PROBABLY CAN BE

SENT TO DAMASCUS EARLIER. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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